

Communication Matters

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Michigan's New Interpreter Law PA 23 & PA 24

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH) has an FAQ on their web site to answer some of the questions being raised about the new interpreter law. The rules for the law are in the process of being written by a workgroup that is lead by the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) and the DODHH.

- ✓ Who is a qualified interpreter according to the law?
- ✓ How do I find a qualified interpreter?
- ✓ What do I do if I can't find a qualified interpreter?

Find the answers in the FAQ which is posted on the DODHH home page in the "What's New" section.

www.mcdc-dodhh.org



Teaming Up for Comprehensive Services MADHH & Julie Eckhardt



Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MADHH), with Julie Eckhardt as the rehabilitation specialist, will be providing technical assistance and other supports to MRS employees and blended staff serving customers who are deaf or hard of hearing. This team approach combines Ms. Eckhardt's experience in hearing loss and vocational rehabilitation with the statewide capacity and expertise of MADHH.

Julie will continue to serve as editor for *Communication Matters*. She will also respond to your questions, conduct training as requested, and work behind the scenes to make your job easier. Contact Julie Eckhardt directly with your questions about:

- Assistive Technology
- Accommodations
- Workplace assessments
- Resources, agencies and programs
- Video Relay Interpreting or Video Relay Services
- Information on legislation and other matters impacting people with hearing loss.



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Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net. Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services. Communication Matters is available on the web at www.michigan.gov/mrs and on the E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center.

Dramatic Rise in Cochlear Implants

What does it mean for rehabilitation?

NTID (National Technical Institute for the Deaf) reports a dramatic increase in the number of students with cochlear implants (CI). An article in the *Spring/Summer 2007 NTID Focus* reports that in 1999 there were 29 students and one faculty member at RIT/NTID with cochlear implants. In 2007 there were 217 students using the technology (Johncox, pg. 12). In response to this shift, NTID's Communication Studies and Services department has developed programs and expertise to respond to the emerging needs of students with a CI.

As rehabilitation professionals, what is your experience? Are you seeing more people with cochlear implants? What kind of assistance are people with a CI requesting? How are the rehabilitation needs of transition students with a CI different from other deaf or hard of hearing students?

Do you have thoughts or questions about cochlear implants?

Send a note to:

julie@madhh.org

iPhone NOT Hearing Aid Compatible

Hearing Loss Association Complains to FCC

The Hearing Loss Association of America (formerly SHHH) has filed a complaint with the US Federal Communication Commission (FCC) against Apple, makers of the iPhone. Under Section 255 of the FCC regulations, phone manufacturers are required to make products accessible to people with disabilities if it is "readily achievable." Technology to make mobile phone devices compatible with telecoils and hearing aid microphones is available at the present time.

To learn more, see the article at this link:

<http://www.macworld.co.uk/business/news/index.cfm?RSS&NewsID=19166>

A Guide for Service Providers and Consumers

Demystifying Hearing Assistance Technology

A new book, available free in PDF format, seeks to explain technology used by people with hearing loss. The manual is designed in response to service provider and employer requests for assistance in evaluating the access needs of people with hearing loss.

The entire guide can be downloaded at:

<http://www.wou.edu/~davis>

Or on E-Learn in the Deaf/HH Resource Center under Learning Resources.

Free

Consumer Guide to Hearing Aids Published by AARP

The Association for Retired Citizens (AARP) has published an excellent guide for anyone considering hearing aids. The publication is free and available on the Internet at:

www.shhh.org/learn/selecting_hearing_aid.asp

Or on E-Learn in the Deaf/HH Resource Center under Learning Resources.

Solutions for Workers with Hearing Loss

Michigan Association for Deaf & Hard of Hearing

- Workplace Assessments & Accommodations
- Assistive Technology Demonstration, Rental & Sales
- Workshops on Hearing Loss & Communication Success
- Hearing Aid Loaner Program
- Equipment Distribution to Low-Income People
- Youth Leadership Development & Prevention Workshops
- Interpreter Referral & Coordination
- Technical Assistance, Information & Referral
- Legislative Advocacy



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Serving individuals, agencies, and businesses throughout Michigan

For Youth & Young Adults!

Summer Job Opportunities!

MADHH Accepting Applications for Camp and Leadership Institute

Camp Chris Williams for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youths
Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MADHH) partners with Lions District 11B-2 to offer Camp Chris Williams, a fun-filled traditional camping experience for kids who are Deaf or hard of hearing, their siblings, and children of Deaf adults. Campers are 8 through 14 years of age. Activities include: substance abuse and violence prevention, horseback riding, swimming, canoeing, fishing, archery, arts and crafts, campfires, drama/skits, hiking, and Mini-Olympics. Camp Chris Williams is held at the Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta, MI during the dates of August 16-23, 2008. Applications are online at www.madhh.org or contact the office as below.

The Ralph Lynam Leadership Institute of MADHH

The Leadership Institute is for deaf and hard of hearing high school students who have completed the 9th grade and are ready to enter 10th, 11th or 12th grades, or are a graduating senior, ages 16-19 years old. The Leadership Institute is held on the campus of Michigan State University, in East Lansing, MI, June 22-27, 2008. Students will receive training on advocacy skills, assistive devices, civil rights, substance abuse and violence prevention, goal setting, and team building. Fun activities usually include bowling, swimming, tours of the Michigan Capitol, participation in the signing of the national anthem at the Lansing Lugnuts baseball game and possibly an open-captioned movie. Most of the presenters are Deaf/hard of hearing and all are leaders in their field.

Positions open include: Assistant Camp Director, Art Director, Counselors, and Interpreters.

Applications online at www.madhh.org or contact the office to receive an application by mail:

Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Video Phone: 517-487-0202
Toll Free V/TTY: 1-800-968-7327
517-487-0066 ext: 16

Generate Excitement!

Two contests sponsored by RIT/NTID for high school students with hearing loss

Rochester Institute of Technology, home of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), is sponsoring two contests to inspire "writing whizzes and science stars."



SpiRiT Writing Contest is for students in the 10th and 11th grades. Find more information at www.rit.edu/NTID/WritingContest4
Deadline: March 1, 2008



RIT's **National Science Fair** for 9th-12th grade students with hearing loss provides an opportunity to show off science skills. More information is at www.rit.edu/NTID/ScienceFair
Deadline: January 15, 2008

In the next issue of Communication Matters

SCHOLARSHIPS for Deaf/HH Students January 2008

